The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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This movement they call organized labor is the universal, vital problem of the world.—Thomas Carlyle.

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STAND-PATTERS ALWAYS YIELDING GROUND

Thirty years ago the Populist party favored government warehouses for the storage of wheat and the recognition as negotiable paper of warehouse receipts held by farmers.

The theory was denounced. Economists, business men and bankers thundered their opposition, while cartoonists and jokesmiths found material without limit for their sarcasm and their wit.

Present-day events prove that the Populist party was anchored in the bogs of reaction, when compared with bankers, business men, economists and editors who would remedy today's surplus cotton situation.

The warehouse scheme has been revived and a cotton strike next year to lessen production is assured.

Some of the latter-day Populists have landed in the camp of Soviet Russia and Mussolini by demanding that state legislatures pass laws to regulate the amount of cotton planters may grow.

Organized labor shrinks from the thought that the state can assume to tell a man when and under what conditions he shall work. If this can be applied to cotton it can be applied to industry. Many of those who urge this theory were—and are—leaders in opposing labor's plea that social changes can not be solved by legislation, but rather by organization and the development of public opinion.

It seems but yesterday that the high-wage theory had no advocate outside the ranks of organized labor. Now, everyone chants its praises. They have "discovered" something. Former advocates of cheap labor accept the half-century claim of trade unionists that a strong purchasing power is prosperity's base.

In the days when low wages were considered a community asset, the shorter work day was classed as an interference with man's willingness to work. Now industry dare not operate 100 per cent and business men shut down production to meet market needs. They call this "stabilization."

When organized labor urged restriction of immigration to protect American living standards, they were told: "Our country is the haven of the world's oppressed." Who opposes restriction now?

The right to organize, free school books, abolition of child labor and the company store, the initiative and referendum, safety and sanitation enactments, workmen's compensation and scores of other remedial statutes met the same opposition. Each and every proposal was received with the same dreary prediction of business paralysis and national ruin.

Some of these former opponents assume the same attitude toward new problems. They sing the same song when solutions are proposed.

They will be forced to again change through the operation of social and economic forces and the workers' agitation.

"Where the advance guard stands today. "The rear guard camps tomorrow."

TEXAS OPEN PORT LAW HELD ILLEGAL BY COURT

Austin, Texas, Nov. 6.—By setting aside the so-called "open port" law of this state, the Court of Criminal Appeals has checked the efforts of anti-unionists to handcuff workers to their employment.

The law was passed in 1920, during a strike of Galveston longshoremen, and was alleged to prevent interference with employment. Under the act a husband and wife could not discuss a strike and employes on strike could be taken from their home county to other sections of the state for trial, when accused of crime.

The court objected to penalties inflicted on strikers that were in excess of punishments inflicted on those who committed the same act if no strike exists.

The court pointed out that the law of the state now is that a person who "slaps" another person who is not an employe of a common carrier engaged in commerce is only guilty of a simple assault, but if he slaps an employe of a common carrier he is guilty of a felony and may be sent to the penitentiary for a term of years.

"Such enactment violates the Federal Constitution guaranteeing to all persons equal protection of the law, and is class legislation without the pretense that the classification is other than arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable," the court said.

COURT HOLDS WIDE POWER OVER LIVES OF WORKERS

Richmond, Va., Nov. 6.—Union miners may attempt to organize employes of the West Virginia-Pittsburgh Coal Company if they do not urge the breaking of individual contracts or do not intimidate, threaten, assault or otherwise violate the criminal statutes. The unionists may urge their cause in public speeches or by the circulation of arguments in printed form.

The above summarizes a decision by the United States Federal Court of Appeals in modifying an injunction issued by the Wheeling Federal District Court.

While the laws of West Virginia cover every form of illegal act that the injunction prohibits, the company would be compelled to prove its case under these laws where it accuses a union miner with unlawful acts. Under the injunction system, the miner is arrested and he must prove his innocence before the judge that issued the court order.

Free speech, free press and free assemblage are all subject to the whim of the injunction judge, who only operates in strike times, and who bases such acts on the theory that labor is a commodity associated with business, and that interference with business is subject to the injunction process. Constitutional rights and fundamental guarantees are not considered.

The West Virginia-Pittsburgh Coal Company maintained friendly relations with the United Mine Workers' Union until 1922, when it broke its agreement. Since then it has operated on the anti-union basis.

NEW SACCO-VANZETTI EVIDENCE CAUSES EDITOR TO CHANGE VIEW

Boston, Nov. 6.—The Boston Globe reverses itself in the case of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, charged with murdering a paymaster and guard at South Braintree in 1920. The Globe submits reasons why Judge Thayer erred in refusing a new trial.

The two men claim they were "railroaded" because of radical beliefs, and that the department of justice aided state officials in convicting them on a first-degree murder charge "to get them out of the way."

"We do not know whether these men are guilty or not," says the Globe. "We have no sympathy with the half-baked views which they profess. But as the months have merged into years and the great debate over this case has continued, our doubts have solidified slowly into convictions, and reluctantly we have found ourselves compelled to reverse our original judgment. We hope the supreme judicial court will grant a new trial on the basis of the new evidence now yet examined in open court."

The Globe editor calls attention to an important affidavit made after the trial by Capt. C. H. Proctor of the states that the record implies that a as an expert, his evidence was understood by the jury and the judge to be that the fatal bullet issued from Sacco's pistol. Careful examination of the records show that he did not reply to direct questions. His affidavit states that the record implies that a device was fixed up in advance for dodging a direct answer to a direct question. His replies were understood to mean that he believed the bullet came from that weapon. He allowed that impression to go abroad. The supreme court refused to review this testimony on the ground that the trial judge had ruled there was no pre-arrangement between the witness and the prosecution and that the trial judge's ruling could not be set aside "as a matter of law." Proctor's affidavit destroys a feature of the state's case that made a strong impression on the jury.

PEOPLE EASILY SWAYED; TO THINK IS HARD WORK

Hartford, Conn., Nov. 6.—If bad logic is good rhetoric and is mixed with emotional appeals, it is certain to sway the mass of people, according to Prof. Henry T. Costello of the philosophy department of Trinity College and Prof. Robert S. Hillyer of the English department of the same institution, in a joint statement on "How to Make People Think."

For three reasons, said Prof. Costello, it is impossible for most persons think straight. These are a formed habit of not thinking, prejudice and inability to follow true logic applied to one's life and the facts of human experience.

Habit teaches a man what to do in ordinary business, and what looks like intelligence may turn out to be just well-established custom and routine.

Prof. Costello pointed out that such a man is easily deceived by unexpected argument, tricky advertisements or someone else that takes him out of his usual field. It is hard to make anybody think when any excuse can be found to avoid thinking, Prof. Hillyer said.

1,500,000 WORKERS WOULD SWAMP CANADA

Toronto, Ontario, Nov. 6.—"A fine theory but impracticable" is the verdict of Dominion officials on the statement by Rev. A. F. Winnington-Ingram of London, before the Canadian Clubs of Winnipeg, that 1,500,000 idle miners from Great Britain should be settled in the mineral areas of British Columbia and Northern Ontario.

"How are we going to settle even a lot less than 1,500,000 miners in undeveloped areas?" asked one immigration official. "It takes a lot more than mere man power to place miners—or anybody else for that matter—but especially miners, in their occupation.

"The admission of 1,500,000 people all at once would simply swamp the country with unemployed and give us a worse problem than they have in England," said Chief Minister Mitchell. "The trouble is in the absorption into industry and farming. We could not use them all at once, even if they were provided with lots of money. We could go ahead and develop certain areas, but we would be faced with the problem of what to do with the product."

PRESIDENT HAS CALLED PAN-PACIFIC MEETING

Washington, Nov. 6.—Acting on the authority of congress, the president has called a conference on education, rehabilitation, reclamation and reforestation, to be held at Honolulu, Hawaii, on April 11 to 16, next year.

All countries bordering upon the Pacific Ocean and having territorial interests in the Pacific, including colonial governments, have received invitations.

All organizations and institutions, public or private, which are engaged or interested in the fields covered by this conference are also invited to send delegates.

This conference is planned to establish a basis of co-operation for the promotion of peaceful arts and pursuits among the countries participating; to provide a medium of exchange of knowledge on the subjects under discussion; to afford a wider field of service for certain technical activities and to be of assistance to the territories of the several participating countries.

An international exhibit relating to the major interests of the conference will be held in conjunction therewith.

PRESENT WAR MACHINERY HELD BY NINE NATIONS

Geneva, Nov. 6.—Nine of the 17 nations represented at the arms limitation conference to arrange a world disarmament program have refused to accept any limitation on existing war stocks, of trained reserves, of air forces, armies or navies or of commercial fleets.

For six months these representatives have discussed disarmament methods on which all could agree. This program was intended to be a working basis for the proposed world disarmament conference to be held by the League of Nations. Representatives of the following nations announce they will accept no reduction of their military establishmemnts: Italy, Japan, Argentina, France, Roumania, Poland, Belgium, Czecho-Slovakia and Jugo-Slavia.

FALL FACES TRIAL

Washington, Nov. 6.—The conspiracy trial of former Secretary of the Interior Fall and Edward L. Doheny, oil magnate, begins November 22. They are charged with defrauding the government in the Elk Hills oil lease. Herbery is also included.

TAILORS RAISE WAGES

Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 6.—Journeymen Tailors have won their long strike for wage increases. Practically every shop has signed the new agreement.

FASCISTS COMPEL ALL TO CELEBRATE

New York, Nov. 6.—Mussolini's celebration of the fourth anniversary of the establishment of Fascism was a tumultuous event, but the people were forced to parade and cheer, according to John Lucas, in a copyright cablegram to the New York World.

The newspaper correspondent was wise enough to get beyond the border of Italy before he forwarded his message.

"Now that nearly all labor is forced to carry Fascist membership cards, all and sundry commanded to attend the procession under pain of fine and dismissal from their jobs. Fascist militiamen not only made house-to-house visits, dragging out reluctants, but inspected the men in the streets, arresting those with cards who shirked the processions," Mr. Lucas said.

"Public interest was far deeper in two unpleasant facts behind the drumming and trumpeting of the parades. Internal dissensions among the Fascists continue to disturb the life of the provincial cities of Italy, while the sudden rise of the lira's value is bringing unemployment and bad trade without any drop in the prices of necessities."

A. F. OF L. INSPIRES WEST VIRGINIA LABOR

Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 5.—"During the past two weeks there has been an encouraging change in the affairs of organized labor in West Virginia," says the West Virginia Federationist. "The American Federation of Labor's decision to wage an active war on the anti-union shop and the company union has bolstered the movement in this state and instilled more confidence in the membership.

"The proposed campaign of the A. F. of L. will strengthen the building trades, steel workers, miners, glass workers and other organized branches in the state, as well as reach into many unorganized industries.

"The establishment of a more powerful trade union movement in West Virginia, however, depends upon the workers. If they will rally to the standard nothing can prevent the thorough organization of workers."

MINERS' WAGE RAISE CAUSED BY UNION FEAR

Morgantown, W. Va., Nov. 6.—Alarmed at the drift of non-union miners to trade unionism, coal operators in this field and in Fairmont raised wages.

These employers broke their agreement with the United Mine Workers and enforced open shop. That were the rule nine years ago. Business has been prostrate through this section because of the miners' low purchasing power, and opposition to the anti-union shop is increasing. In the Fairmont field the union movement has made pronounced headway despite gunmen and injunction judges.

BOSTON FUR WORKERS WIN FORTY-HOUR WEEK

Boston, Nov. 6.—After a five-weeks' strike fur workers in this city won the 40-hour week and increased wages. Union-shop rules are strengthened and the union will have full control of the apprentices. The 40-hour week is similar to the New York practice in this industry.

THE "YELLOW DOG" IS UNFAIR

American Federation of Labor Declaration

Under the guise of a contract for employment, wage earners are compelled to surrender their trade union membership and pledge themselves to take no collective action with fellow employes relative to their terms of employment or become members of a union while remaining in the firm's employ.

The employe, as a price of securing or retaining a job, is forced to surrender his right to voluntary association. Such alleged contracts contain a fundamental wrong.

The employers who make use of them are advocates of the so-called and misnamed "American plan." They are members of powerful organizations. Having applied their right to free association and organized their city and state bodies, federating these into national associations, they apply the individual contract to employes for the purpose of making it impossible for them to exercise their right as free men and American citizens to organize for self-protection and the promotion of their welfare.

The individual contract, popularly known as the "yellow dog," is intended to so deprive wage earners of one of their most necessary and essential rights as free men that industrial autocracy can be challenged.

There is no mutuality in the "yellow dog." Being devoid of this, it lacks the vital essential of a contract. The employe surrenders his right to voluntary association, while the employer's right to organization remains unquestioned.

Such alleged contracts are contrary to public policy. Their specific purpose is to prevent American citizens who are wage earners from exercising an all important right.

Such contracts have but one purpose, the creation of class rights and distinctions in the industrial field, through the building up of a legal fiction that under the law of contract workers may lawfully surrender the right to voluntary association.

The "yellow dog" is a challenge to American Institutions.

BRITISH COAL MINERS' WEEKLY WAGE IS LOW

London, England, Nov. 6.—Statistics on coal miners' wages, issued by the Ministry of Mines, disprove the charge that these workers would overthrow government and that their wage is sufficient.

The report shows that the average weekly wage of all classes of work people in coal mines of Great Britain during the March quarter, 1926, was 53s, 4d ($13.32). The coal owners enforced a lockout when their employes refused to accept a lower rate. The present turmoil is the result.

The coal owners insisted that wage reductions were necessary when the government withdrew its subsidy. During the subsidy period coal owners' profits were about £9,000,000 ($45,000,000), and the royalties drawn by royalty owners were £4,400,000 ($22,000,000).

During the eight years, 1914-21, coal owners' profits were £181,500,000 ($907,500,000). The total capital value of the industry is put, during that time, at £160,000,000 ($800,000,000).

These figures, from governmental sources, sustain the workers' claim that the coal industry can pay a living wage if waste eliminated and modern methods applied. Impartial government investigators have repeatedly reached the same conclusion.

BEFORE MINERS UNITED STANDARDS WERE LOW

Scranton, Pa., Nov. 6.—In a radio talk on "Mitchell Day," observed by the United Mine Workers of America, Edgar Wallace, A. F. of L. legislative representative, called attention to changes that the miners' organization have wrought.

"Till paid, living in company houses, exploited in company stores, the miners, before they joined their union, were no asset to the community," Mr. Wallace said.

"Where today there are splendid department stores, doing a thrifty trade, were the dingy little run-down rookeries, two jumps ahead of the sheriff. The miners' leaders—John Mitchell and William B. Wilson—and others knew then, as we contend now, that America requires a high standard of living for all who will work, recognizing the wonderful natural resources of our land and the unparalleled productive capabilities of our people; that low wages impair consuming power and mean driving stagnation to business; that all the people must prosper when workers are well paid."

RECORD RAIL EARNINGS

New York, Nov. 6.—The year's profits for the railroads of this country will break all records. The figures are estimated at $100,000,000 greater than the $1,136,973,477 of last year. Profits for October through the anthracite coal region during September were from 125 to 150 per cent ahead of the same month in 1925.

GOVERNOR HARTLEY IS RECALL VICTIM

Seattle, Nov. 6.—Recall petitions for the recall of Governor Hartley are being circulated throughout the state, and this reactionary executive is near the end of the trail.

The executive council of the Washington State Federation of Labor has voted to support the recall. This is in line with last year's convention of the state federation, which authorized co-operation by the state labor movement "with other progressive forces of the state to the end that the state of Washington on behalf of the present governor and his anti-social program and policies at the first practical opportunity."

For years organized labor has called attention to the governor's opposition to progressive policies, but the state did not awaken until regents of the Washington University, appointed by him, dismissed Professor Suzzallo, president of that institution.

When Governor Hartley made his first campaign for governor he posed as a labor-union shop and opposition to collective bargaining were his leading issues.

He deceived friends of the Federal Child Labor amendment as "pusillanimous blatherskites" and "bolsheviks." He voted a state anti-picketing bill and favored unlimited hours of labor on state road work and would change the work day of women in laundries, hotels and restaurants from eight 10 hours.

Dr. Suzzallo is considered one of the nation's leading educators, and through his efforts Washington University has reached a high standard.

ROBERT DISSMAN IS DEAD

Washington, Nov. 6.—Cable dispatches from Berlin announce the sudden death at sea of Robert Dissman, on board the steamship Columbus while returning from New York.

He was president of the German Metal Workers' Union, and was one of four representatives of the International Metal Workers' Federation who visited this country and who attended the recent Detroit convention of the A. F. of L. and the Metal Trades Department.

PLUMBERS UNITE

Waterville, Maine, Nov. 6.—Plumbers and steamfitters organized and are affiliated with the trade union movement.

MAN'S SPIRIT COUNTS; ALL ELSE VALUELESS

Montreal, Quebec, Nov. 6.—The person who can not see anything in life except what he sees in a test tube or under a microscope is to be pitied, Dr. Allen Craig of Chicago said in an address before the American College of Surgeons. The speaker ridiculed dollar estimates that are so commonly placed on man.

"It is the spirit within him that makes the man supreme in the world and allows him to control materialistic things," said Dr. Craig.

Describing the chemical constituents of the human body, Dr. Craig said:

"Consider the average 150-pound body of a man from its chemical aspect. It contains lime enough to whitewash a 12-foot sized chicken coop, sugar enough to fill a small shaker, iron to make a ten-penny nail, plus water. The total value of these ingredients is 98 cents, or about 60 cents per hundredweight on the hoof. Yet the insurance companies place the economic value of a man at $5,000. How do they account for the difference of $4,999.02?"

The answer, he said, was in the value of the spirit within the man.

Prosperity Is Not Nation Wide; Church Men Expose Publicity

Washington, Nov. 6.—"The chorus of voices proclaiming that because of high wages we can now look forward to the indefinite continuation of prosperity misses several plain facts," says the National Catholic Welfare Council, in its weekly bulletin.

"High wages are not nearly so common as is assured. Great numbers of men are making as low as $3 and $4 a day. Great numbers of women are making as low as $12, $13 and $14 a week. Great numbers of both men and women are out of work and are making no money at all.

"The level of wages is higher now than at any time in the past, but even now close to one-half of the men working for wages are not making a family living wage and close to one-half of the women working for wages are not making enough to support them in reasonable comfort.

"Great numbers of men and women working for a weekly or a monthly salary are below the line of reasonable existence and still greater numbers have not shared proportionately in the increased productiveness of American industry and agriculture.

"High wages are considered a guarantee of prosperity because they increase buying power, and when spent keep the wheels of business moving. But farmers are getting but one-third of consuming public and their buying power has actually decreased in the last seven years. Along with low paid wage and salaried workers in cities, they act as a handicap to city prosperity, and a sure cause of inevitable industrial depression in this country.

"Our prosperity now is not national because the farmers are not prosperous and because great numbers of city workers are not prosperous.

"The fact is that prosperity is not widespread at home is the sending of so much money and goods abroad. Apart from war loans, there are eleven billion dollars of American investments abroad.

"The fact that citizens of the United States can invest so much abroad under the present distribution of wealth and income, and at home have so much topheavy and unnatural our prosperity is."

BRITISH LABOR GAINS IN MUNICIPAL VOTING

London, England, Nov. 6.—Labor's political success in 300 county and municipal boroughs of England and Wales, indicates popular feeling toward the government's aid to coal owners.

More than 120 labor gains have been recorded. In the north of England the Conservatives and Liberals combined against labor. In a number of the big industrial centers labor made pronounced gains and in the cities of Leeds and Sheffield obtained a majority of the city councils.

During the campaign the workers called attention to the government's alleged "neutral" policy in the mine lockout after it has given every possible aid to the coal owners.

A factor in labor's success was the government's control of the poor relief laws that for centuries have been enforced by the communities in which these taxes are levied and collected.

This relief is ordered by boards of guardians and can be voted to dependents of workers and other citizens who have been jaunpriced by the miners' strike. The government, through its Ministry of Health, has taken over the enforcement of these laws.

CLOAK MAKERS STRIKE AGAINST SWEATSHOP

New York, Nov. 6.—Joseph Engel, president of the Merchant Ladies' Garment Association, acknowledges that a refusal to treat with employes has almost wrecked this industry. More than 40,000 employes suspended work to end a sweatshop system. That the strike is effective is indicated by Engel's statement:

"The latest reports received this week show that the stocks on hand and the amount of merchandise in work do not total more than 25 per cent of the amount actually on the racks at the same time last year. There seems to be no substantial production in sight."

The cloak makers are affiliated to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The A. F. of L. has indorsed their movement and the executive council has issued an appeal to organized labor for financial aid.

75 MILLIONAIRES REPORTED FOR 1924

Washington, Nov. 6.—This country had 75 persons who had an income of $1,000,000 and over in 1924, according to tax returns made public by the Internal Revenue Bureau.

Three of these had net incomes of $5,000,000 and more, nine others reported net incomes ranging between $4,000,000 and $5,000,000, and 15 had net incomes of between $2,000,000 and $3,000,000. The names of this exclusive set were not made public.

The gross income of this 75 millionaires was $210,268,268. Of this $102,738,740 were received as dividends. The next largest income was $50,660,650 received from the sale of assets.

JAPANESE VISITORS MARVEL

New York, Nov. 6.—A delegation of 22 Japanese industrial and commercial leaders expressed amazement at the "mechanical civilization" they found in their journey across the United States.

"The Japanese still work with man power, Americans with machines. My first thought was that the machine was using the man," said one of the visitors.

TEXTILE MILL BARONS ASKED TO END STRIKE

Passaic, N. J., Nov. 6.—Textile mill owners will again be asked to meet representatives of the United Textile Workers to discuss a settlement of the nine-months' strike. Previous invitations have been ignored or rebuffed. At a conference of citizens, called by Mayor McGuire, at the request of the executive committee of the United Textile Workers, a resolution was passed requesting mill owners to name members to a committee of meeting employes. The mayor, three clergymen and a former district court judge were commissioned to meet the mill owners.

"If the mill owners would recognize the employes' right to organize, this strike could be quickly ended," said Vice President Starr. Even if the mill owners could be served and elected into submission, the mill owners would not win, for the workers would strike at the first opportunity, the trade unionist said.

Failing to compel wholesalers to cancel their contracts in connection with the strikers' relief organization, the mill owners have attacked the strikers from a new angle by forcing evictions from company houses. Botany, the largest of the strike-affected mills, started the eviction policy. This is considered an acknowledgement by the management of this mill that the strikers will stick, and that it is necessary to drive them and their families into the streets.

FEDERAL AD. CENSOR FEARED BY SOUTHERNER

Washington, Nov. 6.—Federal control of newspaper advertising is a possibility, John A. Park of Raleigh, N. C., told delegates to the convention of the American Association of Advertising Agencies.

The Federal Trade Commission has opened the Southern Publishers' Association of illegal control of newspaper advertising. Mr. Park said this is "Uncle Sam's business," and a threat of federal control of advertising.

"The question is asked what will happen if the commission makes an order to cease and desist? It is not clear, for the commission has offered no suggestion to take the place of the present advertising structure. However, if advertising is held to be interstate commerce it opens the way for federal control of advertising."

CAN'T EXAMINE BOOKS

Chicago, Nov. 6.—Meat packers won a long fight against the government when the United States Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that public officials can not examine their books.

MINERS' EXECUTIVE APPOINTED BY PINCHOT

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 6.—Christ J. Golden, president of District No. 9, United Mine Workers, has been appointed public service commissioner by Governor Pinchot. The term expires July 1, 1929. The commission controls state public utilities.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES

New York, Nov. 6.—Printing pressmen have signed a three-year agreement with newspaper publishers in this city. Wages are increased $2.50 a week during the first year, $2 a week the second year and $1 a week the third year. The contract includes an arbitration clause.